

Infant and Maternal Mortality Among African Americans Task Force (IMMT)
Programs and Best Practice SubCommittee
Tue 5/26/2020
3:30 PM - 4:30 PM
DRAFT Minutes

Attendees: Kenya McRae, Dara Beasley, Ann Barden, Tina Wheat, Nelson Agbodo, Michelle Hoersch, Angela Ellison

The committee met to discuss the future work of this committee in light of the Corona Virus and its impact on maternal and infant mortality. In light of the conversations the following issues were raised and will be the focus of future meetings.

Research

- 1) Per the guidance for the task force each committee should conduct research related to the focus of their group. In the first meeting this group asked the members to begin model best practices program for maternal focused program with a specific focus on those serving African American women. As survey tool was developed by Michelle and Veronica and sent out to committee members. However, COVID-19 hit shortly after this first meeting and waylaid this process. The recommendation from the meeting today was to resurrect the survey and ask members to complete. The timeline for this process will be discussed more fully at the next Program and Best Practice (P&BP) meeting.
- 2) The second suggestion was made that we reach out to Arden Handler, who on the task force call, indicated that she may have a student who can assist with research of programs. Angela will reach out to Arden to confirm this information.

Committee Activities

There was discussion held on what the new normal will look like as we continue to address maternal mortality for African American women. There was also acknowledgement, raised by Dara, that under the current circumstances there are really no best practices. We are still in the learning phase of how to address all the challenges our families are facing during this time. The next steps based on this conversation were:

- 1) At the next full meeting, the committee will brainstorm on the challenges our families are currently facing during this crisis. This conversation will be framed by looking the stages our women are in:
 - a. Pre-conception
 - b. Pregnant

- c. Labor & Delivery
- d. Post-Partum

There were some general observations as this was discussed that we will also look at these challenges across the life course. Further, as we identify these challenges there will be some that will fall under the purview of the other committees and in those instances we will share our observations with those groups.

2. The committee discussed the need to identify a lead for this committee. The individuals who had previously volunteered are unable to serve due to work responsibilities etc. No individuals have been identified to date how there are a few members who are considering this role. Dr. Tina Wheat indicated that she will be happy to assist as her time permits.

3. There was also a suggestion that we, committee members, review the recent ILPQ webinars as a framework for thinking about “new practices” for working within the maternal and child arena.

There was no meeting date set however the committee will reconvene in June.

Respectfully submitted by

Angela Ellison

IMMT Co-Chair

May 29, 2020